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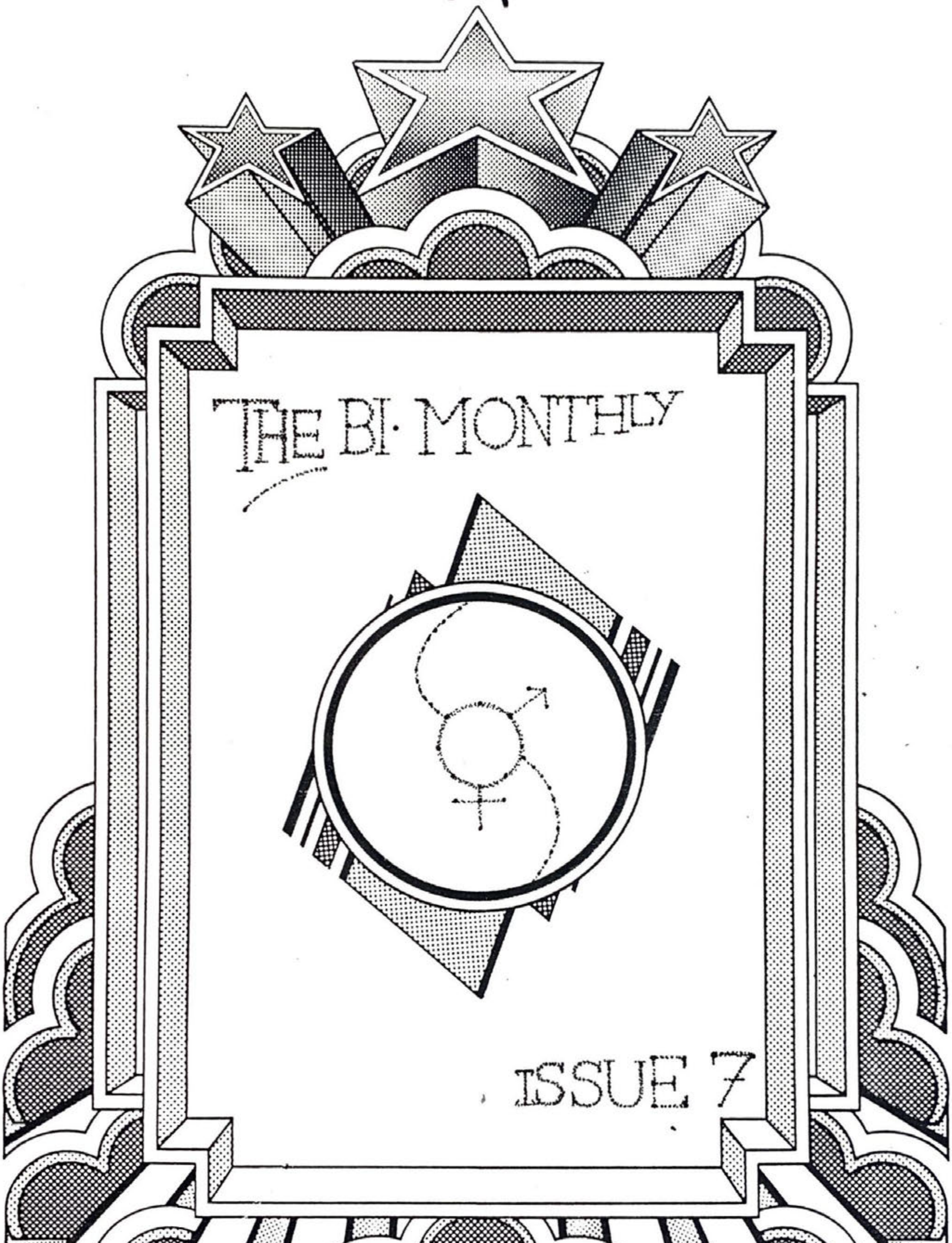

THE BI·MONTHLY

ISSUE 7

Contributors to this issue;
John Barker, Catherine Mullan, Matthew Milne, Rachel O'Connor,
Cris Claxton Stevens, Philip , Liz Berryman, Pink
Dandelion, George & Step, LGYM.

The BI-MONTHLY was put together this issue by Julia Hobday, Rachel O'Connor and Matthew Milne.

Individual articles in the Bi-Monthly do not necessarily reflect the views of the collective, or the London Bisexual Group.

Please send any contributions (preferably typed to save JH's finger to:

BM/BI London WC1N 3XX.

to arrive no later than Friday 15th March 1985.

Dont forget the Bisexual Conference on April 13th 1985.
More details inside.

Many, Many thanks to
Jo Cunningham and Gemma
who came from Norwich and
Leeds especially to do the
graphics in this issue.
Love & kisses to you both

LBG

REFLECTIONS ON OUR 'POLITICS OF BISEXUALITY CONFERENCE'

I would like to thank everyone for making the conference W/E a very worthwhile experience. Special thanks to those who helped organize the event. The atmosphere was welcoming, many were prepared to share vulnerabilities as well as common strengths and experiences and a diversity of views emerged e.g. crystallized in the draft manifestos to some extent which have yet to be chewed over. It was good to feel relaxed but stimulated and challeged - if that isn't contradictory!

I have been particularly concerned about how to communicate with a shared language with lesbians and gays. In the past it has been too easy to create new misunderstandings and suspicions let alone reinforce old ones, (see Jeff Vernons letters in previous issues). I left feeling that at least some people have made progress in their thinking, which should help us pull together. For this and being challenged without feeling too threatened (!) there are many to thank but I would like to express special thanks to Portia and Step. I hope they will be writing articles for future issues of BiMonthly.

Regarding the longer more overtly political manifesto drafted at the conference, (which gave me much hope), my first reactions on re-reading after a few days were:- (I) 3rd paragraph line 8 I'd prefer it to include in areas in which to be active "feminist and anti-sexist movements" with which I feel a very strong identity; (2) The first 'Aim' to be modified to take this first point into account; (3) Some concern about "culture of our own" as part of 'Aim' 4. I'm very much in favour of this as long as it doesn't determine how anyone should 'be' in terms of their gender identity or whatever - we know the problems too well in not fitting in with other people's "cultures" and expectations. If culture is about norms, expectations, values, beliefs, attitudes etc. then I would hope that a "culture of our own" would accept "the diversity of human sexuality" subject to the proviso in paragraph 2 about sharing the same freedom and consent. I don't want a culture which accepts sexist/heterosexist behaviour! We have to have limits but within those there should be room for much acceptance and freedom.

I was relieved that there seemed to be as many wimin as men at the conference. One of my fears is that the group might force wimin out by it's attitudes,etc. I have even toyed with not making further contributions to BiMonthly until more are received from women. My heart sank when I saw the two men at the typewriter with the appeal for more readers to contribute. In a men's antisexist publication it could have been used deliberately to challenge men's power but in BiMonthly it hurt! Yes to wimin meeting separately and if there's too much material for future issues I'd prefer that mine be left out, particularly if wimin are writing in. What do you think to a wimin only page - blank if there is nothing to put on it!??

If the group gets letters from readers in the North interested in forming support groups, I'll be pleased to get details via the London address. I promised to send some people info. about cooperative games which may take some time. Anyone interested in 'New Games UK' which promotes cooperative play for all ages and abilities at little or no expense etc. can get details from II, Plato Rd., London SW2 (£5 sub I985)

— John Barker.

Politics of Bisexuality - report

The air was cold and crisp at 9am on Saturday 8th December as Siri and I leftSouth London to drive to the Factory Community Centre in Newington Green for the Politics of Bisexuality conference. Some other people had arrived before us including David Burkle and Andy Cullis and there was tea, coffee, milk and biscuits in the kitchen for people to help themselves. I sat at the door to register and welcome people and Siri chatted to them. The Community Centre was warm and bright.
About 11 o'clock we played some "non-competetive games" which very successfully broke any ice and generated a good atmosphere. Then we all sat in a circle and introduced ourselves by saying a little about our experiences and why we had come to the conference. There were 16 men and 9 women at this stage though others arrived at Lunchtime, 3 women and 1 man. Everyone identified as bisexual exept two gay men who had come because they were concerned about anti-bisexual feelings in the gay community. Many people said they had identified as gay in the past but now felt tht didn't fit and several spoke of experiencing misunderstanding and hostility from the lesbian and gay communities.
People had come from all over the country - Yorkshire, Bristol, Hull, Sussex, as well as Scotland, Northern Ireland, Eire and West Germany. About one-third came from London. There was a wide variation in the variation in the extent of previous contact with other bisexuals and 'outness'. Some were regularattenders of the LBG while others said they felt very isolated in their communitites and consequently very moved to be at the conference.
We then split up into four small groups to discuss definitio Bisexuality, a subject which had already come up several times in the introductions. The group I was in decided that we would each say something about our own idea of what bisexuality means and then work together towards a general statement to bring back to the rest of the conferenc
After lunch - most people stayed in the building and

shared food they'd brought - we had a feedback session sharing our ideas from the small groups.

Many of us had questioned the usefulmess of labels at all but after some discussion it was agreed that because there are so many false ideas around about bisexuals it was important for us to define ourselves rather than let others do it for us. There was a strong feeling that we should emphasise the fact that itwas a definite and positive choice to be bisexual and not a sign of indecisive fence-sitting. In fact it was argued that bisexuality could be more challenging to the institutions of patriachy and compulsory heterosexuality than homosexuality, which can be seen asa social construction which exists in opposition to the status quo and as such can be neatly tied up and hived off. The existence of bisexuality challenges the stereotyped images of women and men, homosexual and heterosexual, but because we live in a patriachical society the implications for bisexual men and bisexual women are different.

Some people felt that bisexuality was primarily a psychological, emotional and spiritual orientation whereas others felt it should be defined by sexual desire or contact. Everyone agreed that the definitions should not be constraining bu seen as an expression of freedom and potential. Several people said they felt they got different things from their relationships with women and with men.

SOME DEFINITIONS

a) Bisexuals are people who at some time in their lives have (or have an awareness of their potential for) emotional and/or sexual relationships with people of both sexes.

b) Bisexuals are people who have a conscious identity on an emotional, sensual or sexual level with people of both sexes, not necessarily at the same time.

c) Bisexuality is an openness to close emotional contat and therefore potentiallysexual contact with both women and men.

Because of compulsory heterosexuality it was suggested that it was important for bisexuals to be politically active within the lesbian and gay community to work towards the reconstruction of sexuality without oppression. This was more fully discussed in later sessions.

DRAFT N°1

A BISEXUAL MANIFESTO

Bisexuals are people who are oriented towards emotional and sexual relationships with people of both sexes.

We strongly support sexual freedom; the freedom of all people, regardless of age, sex or disability, to explore and define openly their own sexual styles, homosexual, bisexual, celibate, hetero-sexual, monogamous, promiscuous and non-monogamous, with others share the same freedom and consent. This includes the right to refuse sexual contact with anyone for any reason, and the rights of women and men to take responsibility for and to control their own fertility.

We believe that the prevailing heterosexist ideas about sexuality have created restrictive and damaging categories into which the diversity of human sexuality does not fit. We believe that bisexuality challenges the order and origins of these categories. However, whilst this sexual oppression exists, it is vital for bisexuals, lesbians and gay men to organise politically around their self defined sexual identities. So it is important for bisexuals to be politically active within the lesbian and gay movement, working towards the reconstruction of sexuality without oppression.

We believe that sexual oppression is both a result of and an integral part of our patriarchal and capitalist society. Therefore we recognise the links between the opression of people because of sex, sexuality, gender identity, disability, race, age, class, nationality, religion, etc.

Our aims are:

1- To give bisexuals a strong, valid identity within the lesbian and gay liberation movement in particular and society in general. In order to achieve this we must work as bisexuals within the movement both autonomously and collectively.

2- The elimination of sexism, heterosexism and male-defined sexuality and all other forms of opression.

3- To remove the power which adults have over children and young people so that children and young people have the right to define their own lives and sexuality. Included in this is provision of an education which adequately reflects the diversity of human sexuality.

4- To create a positive image of differing sexualities and sexual attitudes within the media. This necessitates representative and participatory community control of the media. Also to create a media and a culture of our own.

5- To actively work for the self organisation of bisexual people and the co ordination of existing bisexual groups, and to form alliances with other progressive forces, nationally and internationally.

Draft Manifesto No. 2

Bisexuals are people who express emotionally, sensually and/or sexually the desire for or an interest in relationshi with either sex.

We believe in sexual and emotional liberation for all individuals , irrespective of race, creed, age, sex, class on the understanding that this liberation does not emotionally or physically damage others.

We consider that bisexuality challenges the institution of compulsory heterosexuality (which has also created the subcategory of homosexuality) so it is important for bisexuals to be politically active wthin the gay movement working towards the reconstruction of sexuality without repression.

Our aims are:

1. To enable bisexuals to achieve a positive identity
2. To work towards the removal of peoples' prejudices and fears and to encourage an awareness and acceptance of bisexuality.
3. To eliminate all forms of oppression.
4. To encourage a continuous education which properly represents the range of human sexuality.
5. To challenge the negative presentation of sexuality in the media.
6. To support.other sexual liberation movements.
7. To foster links between individuals and bisexual groups nationally and internationally.

As a group of people socialising,working and loving together and being aware of our own heterosexual feelings and able to mix inconspicuously in heterosexual society, as bisexuals we are in a unique position to challenge and work to change the sexism racism, heterosexualism and class prejudice in ourselves and others and we shall endevour to give each other the courage and support we need to do this for ourselves, in our groups and in the world.

BISEXUAL MANIFESTO - DRAFT III

Bisexuals are people who have a conscious identity on an emotional, sensual or sexual level with people of both sexes, not necessarily at the same time.

We believe in sexual and emotional liberation for all consenting individuals in behaviour and expression.

We believe that the existing categorization of men and women, homosexuals and heterosexuals is misleading, preventing a complete understanding of human sexualit

Our aims are:

1) To give bisexuals a better sense of identity in Society.
2) To work towards the replacement of the prejudices and fears in Society and the Establishment with an acceptance of the validity of Bisexuality.
3) To encourage the media to present a wider view of sexuality.
4) To encourage an education in schools which gives a fairer representation of all sexual orientations.
5) The elimination of sexism in all its forms.
6) To support other sexual liberation movements whose aims are consistent with our own, and help improve mutual understanding.
7) To bring together and coordinate bisexual groups nationally and internationally and encourage the formation of further groups by means of journals and other means of communication.

We believe that these aims will lead to a greater awareness and understanding of sexuality in general, will give support to bisexuals and will help to reorientate those in uncertainty.

PERSONAL

Living in the Manchester/Bradford/Leeds/Sheffield area? I'm keen to meet with others for any of the following; informal chats about sexuality; starting support group; walks in the superb countryside.

Write to JBc/o BM/BI, London WC1N 3XX

CONFERENCES

The Bi-sexual conference that took place at the Factory Community Centre on the 8th and 9th December 1984, attracted around 40 people(male and female being near equally represented), with some having travelled as far as Scotland and Ireland. Workshops included 'Bi-sexuality within the political movement','Sexual politics' Mental Health, to name afew.

The energy generated by the group conference has formed a support group of some bi-sexuals named the "Radical lesbian/gay identified bi-sexual network", which has contacts in Edinburgh,Hull,Leeds,Brighton, as well as London. There was a strong feeling of wanting to reclaim the word 'Bi-sexual', and in as far as a label can be, for it to be used in a positive sense, towards bi-sexuals being able to carve of an identity that is more clear, and seen to be political.

The conference also produced three manifestoes.

A future conference is planned for the 13th and 14th of April 1985, hopefully at the new Lesbian and Gay Centre; for further information contact:-

BM BI,
LONDON WC1N-3XX.

BISEXUAL POLITICS

[From LGYM Newsletter No14-Jan '85.
Martin's article, edited by Jeff Vernon)

A 'Politics of Bisexuality' conference was arranged by the London Bisexual Group and took place in London on 8th & 9th December. About 30 people turned up. The lack of a bisexual identity and of bisexual politics was acknowledged by most of the people there.

We discussed Bisexuality in the Political Movement. The group I was in decided that we should work in the lesbian and gay movement for gay liberation, but define ourselves as bisexuals. We decided it should be possible to define yourself as lesbian or gay, and bisexual as well, ie bisexual and glad to be gay, bisexual and determined to fight the oppression of homosexuality. When coming out in heterosexual society we should call ourselves lesbian/gay, as these are lebels with puch, suggesting rebellion against a heteosexual society. We should use the labels lesbian/gay until "bisexual" can be just as challeging to compulsory heterosexuality.

We agreed that the word Bisexual has a negative image. To some gays it means sitting on the fence, and to straights it can be a trndy pop-star's sexuality, implying promiscuity, being out only for kicks. Yet we felt the statement "I am bisexual" to be positive too, because it truthfully describes our full sexuality. Some gays believe almost to the same extend as some straights that there are only two types of sexuality, completely straight or completely lesbian/gay. I believe that this is a harmful concept, especially for the probably large numbers of people who are genuinely bisexual. I repressed my homosexuality for many years and can see how social pressures and the lack of a bisexual identity help keep bisexuals acting straight.

The other discussion groups also felt the need for a separate bisexual organisation, to work in parallel with the lesbian and gay movement, making a link between feminist groups, lesbian/gay groups, youth groups, etc. This is important, as we are all facing oppression for the reason that we are a threat to the traditional family unit.

On the second day there was a choice o cusion groups, and education of childr parents and children competed with he sexism, mental health and sado-masochis our consideration. I was pleased by the of those in the education group, who agr that school is part of the general opp of children, with teachers indoctrinatin pupils with ageist, sexist and anti-gay tudes. All of us felt that a more open a tude to sex would have helped us accept sexuality much earlier on. We felt sex e cation should take place more casually from a much earlier age, and with the em sis on relationships rather than reprod ion, contraception and VD. A first impor step in re-education of teachers would a pamphlet for all teachers, produced by bisexual group.

There was a split in the conference ove the proposals for a Bisexual Manifesto, one group reporting that they had set u the Radical lesbian-and-gay-identified bisexual network. Some felt that this r the 'supportive"(*party games*) atmosphe that had been built up over the weekend

I hope that articles showing some anger conviction may now start to appear in t London Bisexual Newsletter. Anger abou way things are, and a dtermination to c things. That is, I hope to see something vaguely political.

REMEMBER
13-14 APRIL '85
is the date of the
next conference - is
it in your diary ?
LLGC is provisionally
booked, but their
opening date is
not yet known.

Now
let us have your
suggestions for
organisation and content.
Can you spare some
time to help
plan the event?
replies to Andy
please.

This page follows up point (4) in one of the draft Manifestos, which came out of our conference in December I984.

Printed material is taken from Channel 4's free publication 'SEE 4' available from good public libraries...................

See 4 is published three times a year - in January, April and September.

COMMUNITY TV

MAKING A PROGRAMME FOR CHANNEL 4

Many people and organisations would like to make or be closely involved in making a television programme. The huge volume of applications to the BBC's *Open Space* is testament to that fact. It has been and unfortunately remains the case that television companies tend to be fairly immune to demands to open the air waves to wider sections of a 'democratic society'. That much greater degree of access and control might be politically desirable is an idea to which television has been almost totally resistant. Fortunately there remain some opportunities – even if very limited ones in terms of air time and finance. *People to People* is the slot on Channel Four in providing space for 'non-professionals' to be involved in programme making.

Channel Four. Unlike the BBC, we do not have our own production teams to assist you. Discussing an idea through with someone who is used to working in a visual medium will be invaluable in trying to move from a set of ideas to a television programme.

Most people will not necessarily know film makers or be in touch with a film or video workshop in their vicinity. However, Channel 4 (Alan Fountain) and the British Film Institute (Barrie Ellis-Jones) or the Independent Film and Video Association should be able to help put you in touch with people who, at least, will be able to spend some time discussing your project and talking through the logistics of programme making.

If you are unable to make this contact you should send a clear outline of the programme you wish to make or the ideas or views you wish to express direct to Alan Fountain at Channel 4.

Close involvement in making a television programme requires a large amount of time and commitment. Don't begin the process unless you or members of your organisation are prepared to devote the necessary time to see it through.

BBC2

OPEN SPACE

Open Space is the weekly series which attempts to meet the DEMANDS, NEEDS and INTERESTS of people like US who know our views do not get a proper airing on television.

Contribute to programme making if:-

(I) You've got a strong idea and want to follow it through by having editorial control over your programme;

(2) Or you want your idea to be developed in partnership with Open Space, so you have some involvement in the making of the programme;

(3) Or you have an idea you think should be on TV but would prefer Open Space to take full responsibility for doing the programme - write or 'phone with details.

If you want to write for more information, you will get 8 pages on the following:

Making a programme; What kind of programme?; What sort of help is given?; What's involved in production work?; What's expected of people applying?; What can't be done?; What happens after the application is made?; How do I apoly? An application form will be enc. with your ref. number.

Write to: Community Programme unit, BBC TV, Lon. WI2 8QT

Or visit: 2I4, Hammersmith Gr., London W6 (Tel. 0I-743-8000)

TRANSFORM

BRITAIN

CHANNEL 4

VIDEO BOX

The video box is easy to use. It's just like a photo booth. Adjust the stool to the right height, look in the window at your own reflection, press the (red) button, record a minute's worth of television and you might end up on Channel 4's **Right to Reply** show (Fridays at 7.30pm).

The video box is at Channel 4, 69 Charlotte Street, London W1 (Goodge Street tube) and from mid January there will be a second video box at Scottish Television, Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

Or

write to

60 Charlotte Street, London W1

The

Remaking Of Britain

with

A

Well argued epigram

on

Channel 4's

'COMMENT'

In the past two years some five hundred people have had the chance to air their views, uninterrupted, on a subject of their choice to an audience of up to one million. Their only restrictions are topicality and legality. How are they chosen? This frequent question has no simple answer: ideas from within Channel Four suggestions from without and, most important, a huge mailing of eager volunteers who may never have been near a TV camera before. This la group accounts for at least third of those who appeared.

Comment Mondays — Thursdays 6.50pm

Comment
Comment
Comment Comment
Comment
Comment
Comment

the changes in women' views and expectations for sex during this century

changing views on the nature of sexual differences and what we consider 'normal'

Channel Four

Publications

Channel 4's leaflet 'Just Sex' is still available at 75p. Also available 'Sexuality: Pictures Of Women (£1.25) and a pack of 5 booklets on Childlessness, The Same Sex, Later Life, Sex & Pregnancy & Teenagers (£1.00. All from PO Box 4000, London W3 6XJ., Glasgow G12 9JQ or Belfast BT2 7FB.

Any corner shop contains more political diversity than the whole of British television.

Diverse Reports is going to go on presenting the other side of the argument during 19

DO IT!

SEXUAL REVOLUTION

BISEXUALITY ON TELEVISION

There can be no doubt that the oncoming of Channel Four has provided a useful outlet for the so called 'minorities of our country. Despite the whole world being made up of minorities it has taken a long time for their voices to be heard regularly in the broadcasting media instead of just another odd topic for the programmers to mutilate. Mind you, despite the fact that human sexuality is probably the most significant aspect which governs our social behaviour there arestill relatively small numbers of programmes devoted to this subject.

Television can be used to help with anyone's sexual lifestyle, hopefully in a very positive manner. Mainstream timeslots which can carry programmes examining all aspects of sexuality always opt for the extraordinary angle and often with a critique rather less than positive.

At a recent LBG meeting a discussion called "What is Normal" took place to talk about the last in the 'Just Sex' series. No-one seemed to emphasise the fact that Bisexuals do not get a great deal out of the broadcasting media. Potentially the 'Just Sex' series had a broadenough format to encompass Bisexuality even if as a facet of Homosexuality. So why wasn't it mentioned?

There are many questions I'm sure everyone has about their sexual babaviour. Despite the fact that radio and television reaches many people at once, they can also achieve a very private one-to-one relationship with the listener. There can be no doubt that anyone who is able to identify with the sensations or experiences of another individual can achieve immense psychological bonding and ultimately perhaps help themwith a problem. Responses to radio phone-ins verifies this. However programmes dealing with sexual problems don't always translate well onto television.

Let's hope that as television develops, programmers will choose to explore sexuality a little more often and with luck and perhaps sone prompting they will examine bisexuality a little mor e deeply. And help more people to become more contented with their sexual feelings

Philip

MEN TOO

FPA 'MEN TOO' PROJECT

presents a one – day

CONFERENCE

MEN, SEX & RELATIONSHIPS

–their impact on Health in Society

29 th March, 1985

University of London,
Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, London WC1

10:00 am – 5:15 pm

About the FPA's MEN TOO Project :

The FPA's MEN TOO Project encourages men, as husbands, partners, parents and individuals, to take an increased, and equal, share of responsibility for their personal and sexual relationships, including contraception. Five key qualities for men to develop in relationships are : caring, openness, flexibility, trust and sharing.

The MEN TOO Project was launched on October 2nd, when the FPA announced its plans to communicate this idea – particularly, but not only, to young men through its work in information and education during 1984 / 85.

A major event during the Project will be a one – day Conference, MEN,SEX

APPLICATION FORM : for FPA CONFERENCE, 29 th March, 1985

The fee for the one – day Conference will be £25 per person
(which includes workshop fees, lunch and refreshments).

*I would like to attend the FPA's Conference on MEN, SEX & RELATIONSHIPS ☐

*I would like more information on the FPA's Conference on MEN, SEX & RELATIONSHIPS ☐

Name ....

Address ....

Town ....

Postcode ....Tel No ....

Organisation ....

Position in Organisation ....

Signed ....Date ....

State in order of preference the Workshop you would like to attend :

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

I enclose my **cheque / p.o. with** my application form
(Please make cheques payable to the Family Planning Association) ☐

Please invoice me later at following address
(If different from above) .... ☐

....

Please tick if you require a receipt ☐

Please return this form to : FPA Conference,
27 – 35 Mortimer Street,
London W1N 7RJ

Lesbian & Gay Pride '85,
c/o Gay's The Word,
66 Marchmont Street,
London WC2.

Dear LBG,

As you may know, the Organising Group have arranged a fund raising booksale at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street Islington, N1, for the 23rd of February. I am writing to you, not only to remind you of it and to search out all your old books for us, but also to ask if any of you can help us on the day of the sale. We need help not only at the town hall, but also out leafletting in Camden Passage, the High Street and tube in Islington. Also we want to have places like Camden Lock and Hampstead leafletted on the day, as in practice, many people will travel a bit to go to the sale.

If you can help out for any length of time over say an hour, then give David Bunnett a call on 482 2740, or Eric or Phil on 737 2485, and well make a note of it so we can get a rota together.

If you have some books for us, then you can ring the above numbers, or call Willy Molton on 359 3785 (daytimes) as well. A number of pubs and clubs in London are acting as collection points for us, so if you only have a few we can tell you if your local is one of them. If you have lots, then we'll collect them from you. Our main storage point is the Fallen Angel in Graham St, off City Road, Angel, Islington.

OR CONTACT SARAH BARRINGTON-KENDALL at the Bi Group.

Yours With Pride

Matt Milne

For the Organising Group.

P.S. If any of you can help out with cars/vans for our collections in your area, we'd be particularly keen to hear from you.

— The Gay Charter —

LBG has recently been added to the mailing list of the GLC Gay Working Party, which in practise makes the group members of the Working Party. There was no mention of Bisexuality in the first draft of the Gay Charter, which the GLC has produced as part of its programme to eradicate discrimination againstmajorities and minorities in society and to change attitudes and politics of public authorities, so that the needs of Lesbians and Gay men are fully recognised and accounted for.

Catherine Mullan and David Burkle from LBG attended meetings at County Hall in December and January and the Working Party accepted their recommendations that this omission should be rectified. The following paragraphs have now been added to the 35 page draft:

This Council/Authority believes that ending discrimination against lesbians and gay men will benefit heterosexuals too. The institution of heterosexuality supports sexism in that it maintains rigid sex role stereotypes which are limiting for both sexes. Fear of being labelled as not-a-real-man or not-a-real-women, or as gay, can cut people off from bein in touch with and lead to their repressing emotional feelings towards peopl of their own sex (as well as sexual feelings).

The complexity of the creation and expression of sexuality and sexual orientation is increasingly widely recognised as a challenge to the myth th people are simply born either heterosexual or gay. Lesbians and bisexual women in particular emphasise the element of choice which can be involved. Bisexuals are people who are oriented towards emotional and sexual relationships with people of both sexes. Because of the prevailing heterosexist ideas about sexuality they believe it is important to be politically active within the lesbian and gay movement, working towards an acceptance of a wider range of emotional and sexual relationships for everybody.

4. Similarly heterosexism pressurises most bisexuals into being secretive about their sexuality. They are largely 'invisible' because of the way the words 'lesbian', 'gay' and 'homosexual' have been used to describe exclusive behaviour and orientation.

Throughout this charter the use of the words 'lesbian', 'gay' and 'homosexual' shall include those who choose to define themselves as bisexual and anyone who chooses to express or acknowledge the homosexual part of themselves.

5. Young people have a right to be brought up to understand that they may experience homosexual or heterosexual feelings or both, and that either or both are to be welcomed as having potential to enrich their lives and those of the people around them.

6. Studies in Relationships and Sexuality should have a far greater prominence in the school curriculum. More teachers must be trained in this area so that young people are given the best possible chance of growing into caring and responsible adults.

It is hoped the document will be formally accepted by the GLC in the near future. Members of the group who want more information or who are interested in attending the working party meetings at County Hall should contact Catherine or DAvid.

Pro S.M.

This is a reply to the article that was printed in "Bi-Monthly " No.2

A few months ago, I would have whole heartedly agreed with the article and in fact wrote similar stuff myself. I felt sadomasochistic sex carried on the power system, whereas my ideals said that all power had to go. I saw that men and male - imitators had all the power and that the way forward was for these people to lose their power, not to play with it.

Then I had a conversation which changed my putlook. During it, I came to see that although men had all the material power (male-defined power) , money, responsibility,rights, wimmin had a power too . They had the power to care,share,show emotion something men usually lacked. As wimmin were seeking the power of assertion, of taking responsibility of their own lives, of rights, the ideal was for men to break down the stereotypes,the worst sides of masculinity and seek this wimmins power so that in the end all be whole humons. The way forward then was not just to smash male-defined power as such but do away with the injustices of it and balance it out with the power that at the moment, wimmin hold. With equal power, would there be any power?

Also, like so many I had read books against sadomasochism before hearing what those involved had to say. I accepted the fact that sadomasochists were oppressors without hearing the other side. After all, sadism and masochism seemed awful things. How could people get pleasures out of pain ? Where was the love in itall , the equality.

When I evetually talked to sadomasochists and was even led to experiment myself, then my putlook was to change. I learnt about the degree of consent in S/M, the trust implicit in such a relationship, "safe" words that would immediately stop any session and also the fact that pain cab be a sensual experience. In fact , with my new view on power, S/M could even be seen to symbolise the new ideal;

ie - balanced power out in the open in safe enviroments between people whotrusted and loved each other.

So back to the article in No.2. As is usual, it seems to have been written by someone who has never been involved in a sadomasochistic relationship and that has made blanket generalisations based on nothing but naive bigotry, much the sort of stuff I used to churn out. The writer's inference that S/M sex lacks "warmth, sensuality, and communication" seems particularly out of tune. It seems to me there is often more communication in S/M sex, where consent is so important. And what about mental -under-the-suface power games ? Surely it is better to live out yourfantasies of humiliation or whatever in the safety of your lover's bedroom rather than in real life. S/M sex might even be a short cut sometimes to "making up" after an argument . Say 'A' and 'B' are lovers and B sleeps with someone else. The possible jealosy of A and guilt of B could be sorted out in one S/M scenerio rather than linger on for days with the two lovers sniping across the breakfast table, playing with emotion and mental power...and without consent as to how far it is going to go.

I wnder if "Sadomasochism"is really a correct descripion. Surely it's not actually sadism if the 'top' only goes as far as the 'bottom' wants and is it masochism when the so called masochist is in control of their experiences ? More it is a question of role playing. Perhaps,with society's stereo-type a male top/ female bottom situation could be probelmatic and in our cases cannot just be excused by saying "Oh, our realationship is bisexual, notheterosexual".Of course some would say that Lesbian and Gay S/M is just trying to replicate heterosexual power roles to obtian heterosexual status. But S/M rolescan alternate and aren't there roles in any relationship anyway? Out in the open and acknowledged and discussed, is it that serious anyway? People in S/M sex get used to doing things through communication and consent. Is that oppresive?

I don't feel people should generalise either way about S/M I don't support military games, the mimicry, of rape,any images of violence,,or the abundance of leather(rotten corpses).I do feel though that everyone should think far more about their own "standard realetionships and how they exersice it,and about reality of power in S/M sex.

Pink Dandelion 85

CAMPAIGN AGAINST KERB CRAWLING LEGISLATION
P.O. Box 287, London NW6 5QU. **Tel. 01-837 7509**

16th January 1985

Dear Sisters and Friends,

We are writing to ask for your support in our campaign.

On 25 January, the Sexual Offences Bill will have its second reading in the House of Commons. This Bill is being introduced by Janet Fookes, Plymouth Tory MP, with full government backing. It seeks to introduce three new offences against kerb crawlers, men who solicit women - mainly prostitute women - in the street, punishable with a maximum fine of £2,000. Included as part of the same Bill is another quite unconnected issue. It proposes to increase prison sentences for attempted rape and indecent assault. Thus the criminalisation of kerb crawling is identified, by legislation, with two grave and violent crimes. The enclosed statement from WAR deals with the Bill's rape proposals.

This new legislation against kerb crawling is being presented as a popular measure which would bring 'equality' to prostitute women and 'solve the problem' of red light areas. Those promoting it include some residents in red light areas, some councillors and MPs, some feminists, and the police. In fact, it is a repressive piece of legislation in line with the Police Act, the Video Nasties Act and Margaret Thatcher's return to 'Victorian values'. In the name of women's safety, the government is hoping to further increase police control of the streets.

The CAKCL is a mixed group of Black and white women and men from women's, Black, lesbian and gay organisations, civil rights groups, trade unions, the probation service and the legal profession. Following our initiative, the National Association of Probation Officers and the Bristol West Constituency Labour Party have passed motions to oppose any legislation against kerb crawling.

We are opposed to this legislation because:

1. It would not protect women. On the contrary. The law on assault is already supposed to protect women from being put in fear; in practice it is hardly used. But that is not because the law - or the police - have too little power. It is because assaults on women have been given a low priority by the police.

2. It is an attack on prostitute women's right to work.

3. It introduces guilt by association into criminal law, since any man who is seen by the police talking to a prostitu on the street would be liable to arrest.

4. It makes Black and working-class men generally more vulnerable, since they are the most likely to be charged by the police for this new crime.

It would become a new 'sus' law, since like the old 'sus' it would rely on police evidence only.

6. The only safeguard against false arrest - the element of persistence - has already proven useless in protecting gay men.

We cannot allow the claims of some women to be used by the government as an occasion to attack other women, and to criminalise Black and working-class communities generally. In order to stop this repressive legislation from becoming law, your action is needed. We urge you to:

1) affiliate to our campaign (organisations min £5, trade unions and professional organisations min £25, other individuals: waged min £2 and unwaged min £1);

2) write to your MP asking her/him to vote against the kerb crawling proposals in this Bill and ask for them to be dropped. (Please send us copies of your letter);

3) send us a letter of support - as an organisation or an individual - saying why you are opposed to kerb crawling legislation;

4) ask for a speaker from our campaign to address your organisation or group;

5) publicise the aims of our campaign and the issues involved in every possible way.

Yours sincerely,

Nina Lopez-Jones

Nina Lopez-Jones
English Collective of Prostitutes
Co-ordinator of CARCL

WOMEN AGAINST RAPE

SEXUAL OFFENCES - A DANGEROUS BILL

The Sexual Offences Bill introduced by Janet Fookes MP will make women more, not less, vulnerable to rape and other sexual assault.

The three proposed measures against men soliciting women are being put forward as protecting women from sexual harassment and intimidation.

But the results, if passed, are likely to be:

1. Because men cannot be seen talking to them, prostitute women will be more isolated and will therefore be in greater danger; they will be under pressure to identify clients, possibly leading to violence; and they will have less time to talk to potential clients and 'check them out' before going with them. We oppose any legislation which puts a large group of women at increased risk of rape, injury, and murder.

2. Police resources will be further diverted from apprehending rapists and other sex attackers to rounding up kerbcrawlers and prostitutes.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill concern soliciting a woman 'for the purpose of prostitution'. The test in court will be for the police to show that the man was soliciting a 'known prostitute'. That is, the police will arrest men who they say were soliciting prostitutes for the purpose of prostitution - not a harassment of women but a voluntary transaction between consenting adults.

Some women feel unsafe in red light areas, and some feel that they want the streets 'cleaned up' regardless of who is arrested. Other women, however, feel safer after dark when they can see other women out on the streets. Either way it cannot be up to the police to protect some women by preventing men from talking to others. We must remember also that there are white women who feel unsafe in areas which are largely Black, and Black women who feel unsafe in all-white neighbourhoods; there are residents who object to women and children in peace camps or to hostels for ex-prisoners, or children or adults with mental disabilities, or alcoholics - often on the grounds of safety. Arrests are not the answer.

Clause 3 concerns soliciting a woman in a manner likely to put her in fear. But existing legislation, e.g. the law on common assault, should already be protecting women from frightening approaches by men in the streets. The problem is that police and courts' priorities mean that the law is not applied and that women's safety is neglected not in this case by the law but by law enforcement. /

In our London survey on rape and sexual assault[1] we found that only one in twelve women who were raped had reported it to the police, and of those who did report only one-third were glad they had done so. No Black women reported rape; of the three who reported other sexual assaults all were sorry that they had. Women expected the police to be not only insensitive but discriminatory.

20

The 'Sexual Offences Bill' ignores these problems, and instead delegates more powers to the police - the same police who refuse to take seriously cases of actual physical assault where women have asked for their help.

Clause 4 of the Bill concerns attempted rape, and sexual assault. In another context we would welcome the proposed increase in sentence for 'indecent assault' on a woman or girl. 'Indecent assault' can mean acts at least as violent and degrading as what the law recognises as rape, and the present two year maximum is an insult and a danger to women.

The proposed maximum of life imprisonment for attempted rape, however, is dangerous. No one has studied the question of how juries will be affected: the possibility of a life sentence may in fact mean more rapists found not guilty. Further, as we said in our report, a call for heavier sentencing "has traditionally been the way in which politicians have appeared to be doing something about rape, without spending any money on rape prevention, or showing any genuine interest in the protection of women."

In passing this Bill Parliament would throw away the opportunity to bring in laws which would begin to deal with the real failings of sexual offences legislation: the women's sexual history is still commonly being dragged into court; rape in marriage, the most common rape of all, is still legal in this country, although it is already a crime in many other countries.

There is a long tradition of using the protection of women as a pretext for racist and repressive legislation and activities. Lynching in the USA, and white race riots, immigration controls, and the clamour for the return of capital punishment in Britain have all used this appeal. The Sexual Offences Bill is the latest example.

It is very easy to be misinterpreted when one criticises a proposal which claims to protect women[2], even when it does not. We hope that those responsible or concerned for women's safety will look again at the Sexual Offences Bill and oppose it before it is too late.

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[1] See Ask Any Woman, A London Inquiry into Rape and Sexual Assault, Ruth E Hall, Falling Wall Press, Bristol 1985. This is the report of the Women's Safety Survey with 1236 respondents.

[2] E.g. the so-called 'Video-Nasties Bill' swept in last year with all-party support on the grounds that violent pornography was encouraging violence, means that Britain's video-makers, including women's, anti-rape, lesbian, gay and community groups are now open to heavy censorship. Many who supported it now regret that they did.

20 January 1985

GAY POLITICS

GETTING INVOLVED AS A BISEXUAL

People who are sexually attracted to their own sex have a history of oppression, be they lesbian, gay or bisexual. One way of fighting this oppression is to band together to organise and campaign for change. This could range from joining the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) which fought for the 1967 law reform to the three days of street riots which became known as Stonewall.

On an individual basis what can a bisexual do? Various lesbian and gay organisations exist - such as London Friend, Gay Switchboard, Lesbian Line, Icebreakers - to act as clearinghouses for information, to offer a befriending service, counselling and a sympathetic ear. But Gay Switchboard does not accept volunteers who identify themselves as bisexual. At least two people from the London Bisexual Group have been told that as Gay Switchboard is a gay organisation, they were not eligible to join. The desicion to hide one's bisexuality and identify as gay is an individual one. But I know at least one Switchboard volunteer who is bisexual.

London Friend offers a counselling and befriending service and group meetings. They are not hung up on bisexuality. Several regular members of LBG work here.

Support groups exist for many specific minorities - gay catholics, lesbians, Mormons, gay blacks, under 21 (GYM), disabled, deaf, even trainspotters. Their reaction to bisexuals differs according to the individual group members. The only groups we know of specifically for bisexuals are LBG, Women's Bisexual Group, and a group for married gays. (There is also a support group for the latter's partners - Sigma).

Most areas in London have gay groups, most of which are welcoming to bisexuals. So joining or forming your own group is one way of getting involved. Other lesbian and gay campaigning organisations are the London Lesbian and Gay Centre (now looking for volunteers), CHE, and the Lesbian and Gay Pride Week committees. One ofthese deals with the women only Lesbian Strength march, the other with the mixed march and the festivities which this year will take place in Jubilee Gardens. This committee too is looking for helpers. It meets alternate Monday evenings at 7.30 in the Fallen Angel, Graham Street (Angel Tube). For dates see listings in City Limits, Time Out and Capital Gay.

The Parliamentary parties all have gay pressure groups, as do some of the non-parliamentary ones.

Other ad hoc groups spring up to support certain needs. Hence the Lesbians and Gays Support The Miners Group who recently raised £5,000 from one benefit!

The other side of getting involved is to overcome any fears of lesbian and gay reactions to bisexuality. By being willing to get involved as out-bisexuals in the lesbian and gay movements we show in the best way our support for sexual liberation.

And finally, it's great fun to get involved, whether it be joining the many thousands who will be at Speakers Corner for the start of this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride March on June 29, to doing boring mail-outs for pressure groups week after week. In uniting, we show our strength!!

Matt Milne

(Contact numbers for all the mentioned organisations can be had from Gay Switchboard on 01-837 7324)

LETTERS

Dear People,

decided to drop you a line to let you know how much I enjoyed reading your newsletter (nos 1&2). They were most reassuring. The newsletter was actually advertised in a local newspaper. I'd been waiting for something like this, although I was dissapointed to learn that the latest publication was somewhat out of date (March). I think I expected a list of contacts in my own area, but I realized that you're only getting on your feet anyway, good luck with it, I shall continue to buy it when ever I can, as I don't know when your next issue will be on sale. (The assistants weren't too helpful at 'The Corner Bookshop, Leeds')

I'll try to tell you a bit about myself;

I was raised in a convent in Ireland, from the age of three, I grew up with 300 girls, as I grew up I found myself having crushes on other girls, nothing ever took place, then I left & ventured out into the bigworld and my Lesbian tendencies seemed to diminish. I started having relationships with men that I thoroughly enjoyed & eventually got married. I've never actually had sex with someone of my own sex, the opportunity never arose, if it had I'd have snapped it up. I desperately need to sleep with another woman, but how on earth do you approach people? (hence the reason for my buying the magazine)

contd......

ontinued from overleaf.

My husband knows how I feel, he encourages me in every ay he can, I'm very fortunate in that respect. I love him very much, our sex life is great and we've been arried for two years now. So if you get any letters form Leeds asking for a contact you can give my name, ddress & tel no. I'm 25 years old & not too ugly. I do hope I recieve a reply!

*** Sorry about our distribution problems- we hope o get distribution to a number of bookshops sorted out ver the next few months. We have already put A.B. in touch with John Barker, our contact for the Leeds rea. (see Personal) and will be happy to forward any letters in stamped, sealed envelopes marked Mrs A.B. from readers (especially women!) who would like to write to her.

Dear Bi Monthly

I have only recently read iss. 4 of BIMONTHLY but I would like to wirte to respond to the letter form Jeff Vernan of the Gay Youth Movement which appeared in it. I think Jeff made a number of interesting comments which I hope will be taken up in this magazine and in discussion. However, I was suprised to read the following:

"as though being bisexual is a question of consulting your diary to decide who to fuck next"

I refer more specifically to his use of the word 'fuck'. Even used as a synonym for sexual intercourse between men and women I find it offensive because of its implications of an active and a passive partner, one fucks and the other is fucked. Furthermore I believe that sex between women and men needs to be freed form the assumption that penetration is the most important part of it. Penetration alone is more likely to result in orgasm for a man than it is for a woman. The use of 'fuck' to refer to love-making between women is absolutely meaningless. I am suprised that an organisation which purports to represent lesbian women as well as gay men is using language which is so phallocentric. This only serves to perpetuate myths about the nature of both male and female sexuality, in particular denying women an active, initiating sexuality.

CATHERINE MULLAN

Dear LBG,

As two gay men, the only people at this conference* who do not identify as bisexual, we should like to make a statement about a badge we have seen people wearing and which is on sale in London. The badge reads: 'Gay is good but bi is best', printed over a pink triangle. This isn't intended as a personal attack on the people wearing the badges - we hope they just haven't thought through its full implication

The badge is profoundly offensive to us as gay men. It creates a system of sexual hierarchy based on divisive labelling in which bisexuality is given supremacy and ours is relegated to second best - therefore denied full validity. Any sexual supremacism is totally incompatible with sexual liberation. After all, heterosexism works by the priveledging of heterosexuality and the subsequent subordination of other sexual possibilities.

The badge uses the pink triangle - a symbol of men who loved men and were murdered as a result of that. A symbol of our opression used here to perpetuate our opression by denigrating our sexuality.

The whole badge is an anti-gay joke of the same calibre as rugby club 'poof' jokes - because its message is that we shouldn't be gay.

The wearers and sellers of this badge should be challenged!

George and Step

(*the Politics of Bisexual conference)

PRESS RELEASE FOR ANTI_SEXIST MENS AND GAY PAPERS.

5 women were arrested on 6th November and charged with criminal damage after 5 pornographic sculptures depicting violence against women were destroyed at Leeds Poly.

At least £2500 will be needed to pay compensation and campaign costs

Please send donations and requests for further info to :
Leeds Womens Defence Group c/o TUCRIC,Market Buildings,Leeds 1.

BM 3225
London WC1N 3XX

Dear friends,

My copy of the Bi-Monthly No 6 had page 6 missing - the continuation of the letter beginning Dear People on page 5 I enclose SAE and shall be grateful if you can send me a copy of the missing page.

The last issue has been the most interesting, as you are becoming more established.

Yours sincerely

Donald Veall

PS I think it would be a mistake to boycott British Monomark. They are an old-established and efficient organisatio If you went to some other unknown organisation you might find yourself messed up by inefficiency.

(NB. Owing to a major oversight everyone's Bi-Monthly last issue was missing page 6. So we've repeated it in this issue. Sorry!! Ed.)

Gay prisoners face many problems that are difficult to inderstand on the outside, such as separation form the GAy community; lack of contact with Gay organisations and prejudice from both other prisoners and officers.

The Gay Prisoners Support Group attempts to overcome this by organising letters to prisoners from the outside.

If you could help, write to the group:

c/o London Friend, 274 Upper Street, London N1 2AU.

Response to "Running a personal group" RM no 4

I agree with the suggestion that the primary task of the person responsible for the newcomers group should be to encourage all who want to, to join in the discussion. On my second visit about a year ago, I Opted for this group in the hopes of getting to know one or two others on hopefully a similar wavelenght. I didn't have high hopes, just a need to make contact.

What happened was rather odd - a pushing of gayness as the real thing (I'd have been as disappointed if bisexuality was pushed, especially to the exclusion of other ways of being) and amatuerish psychoanalysis about my "need to have a beard". Admittedly I didn't see anyone else with one, making me feel more selfconcious about being an outsider. The person conducting the group, wouldn't accept that I decided (in 1974) that shaving is a waste of time and a struggle against nature. I tried to laugh it off to have the focus shifted back to the real task of the group....helping others to communicate effectively and purposefully(??)

Conducting a newcomers group is of vital importance - it may be the only impression many will decide to have. How many don't return - what sort of percentage? Why? This is an area worthy of coverage in future issues.

I'm not the type to be thrown by the experience Ihad but I was feeling very uncomfortable. I usually avoid situations where I have no task to perform or can't be with others I know. I felt lost in what seemed to be a massive club with lo people moving from one area to another....nothing forme to key into. It seemd so 'big' and overwhelming - country lad 'an' all(!)

Having to travel so far made the occasion special and I neede more than people in the group simply being prompted to talk. Inexperienced members taking responsibility for the newcomers group can use the time effectively. I'd have been impressed by someone who admitted inexperience. (I'd have identified with their unease of the 'Newness' of the experience) and said they were going to refer to notes/questions, to make the best use of the time.

Questions about the 'here and now' might ease the way for more personal statements eg Who has come alone?("ME!!)

Anyone feeling uncomfortable?(ME!!) What has been heard about the group? Anyone been to anything similar elsewhere Anyone need to gather courage to come? How do people feel about leaving the meeting to join in the various activities?Etc. There is no need to have solutions or steer towards conclusions as the sharing of fears, feelings, needs,suggestions, ideas, should be enough for most to find their feet. Once the discussion ended I felt I had nothing to latch onto. It would have helped me to have been invited to a table for chats with 'regulars' operating an informal rota to spend a few minutes with newcomers, easing them into the 'support' group.

John Barker

(LBG outing)

Dear Bi-Monthly,

Re-reading issue 6 last night I was struck by the large number of unsigned entries - everything in fact apart from my piece, Richard Sterne's letter and poems and Rachel's "Get Around Town". I see that there is a list of contributors on the inside front cover, but why are these not attached to individual entries?

I'd like to suggest that in future all entries should be signed, unless there is some specific reason for them not to be and I do appreciate that this may sometimes be the case.

I think this would make it easier to rely to pieces in writing and also in person. I may read something I'd like to discuss further with the writer at a meeting if s/he attends rather than write a formal reply.

What do other people think?

Best wishes,

Catherine Mullan

the University of Sheffield UNION
OF STUDENTS

GAYSOC

Western Bank
SHEFFIELD
S10 2TG
Sheffield (0742) 24078

Dear friends,

Our local radio station "Radio Sheffield" has kindly offered us a regular 10 minute slot on a Friday night. We discussed various issues which we'd like to cover and one of these is Bisexuality. Although I'm gay, I'm very interested in bisexuality and sympathise with many of the problems bisexuals face. Therefore, I offered to collect together some information for the Bisexual Feature we have planned.

Have you any suggestions or ideas which you feel it would be important for the bisexual feature to cover? Also, could you please tell me how I can obtain a copy of the magazine Bi-Monthly".

Finally, can you send me details of the next bisexual conference.

Best wishes,

Paul Flynn

After the horror stories that were recounted by people who attended the London Bisexual oup at Heaven,I decided as a gay man to go to workshops on Bisexuality at the NUS lesbian d gay conference. My experience of bisexuals s been far from favorable,but I was prepared tp meet bisexuals in their space and question any rational opinions I may have had.Unfortunately can only say that I am unclearer about bisexulity than I have ever been,and it is still as ncomprehensible to me as heterosexuality.It is ot so much the physical and emotional attraction o the opposite sex that confuses me (in fact imiting sexual expression to one sex is very arrow-minded and restricting I think);nor was t their almost a-political stance.What I found ffensive was that the majority of these bisexals were content to sit around and winge about he supposed shit dished out to them by the lesian and gay movement.They somehow felt that the ppression from us was equal to,and in some cases orse than that dished out by the heterosexist nti-gay society we're all familiar with. I only ish that lesbian and gay propaganda was as abndant and universal as they make out.The fact is hat throughout our lives we are pumped with anti-ay shit from our parents,schools,newspapers,TV, ork,'friends',religion,etc.And while I might have ome prejudices and reservations about bisexuals, he power that I as a gay man can wield is insigificant in comparison.I am still trying to work t how me and Jeffrey alone managed to 'oppress' heir words,not mine) aroom of 30 or so bisexls.Admittedly we did raise our voices but after mments like "The reason some women are lesbians that they've had bad experiences with men", esbians don't get as much physical harrassment as gay men",and "Why are politics so important", ere really wasn't much choice.And whilst it may wrong to assume that all the people in the room reed with these statements,none of them actually jected to them.Also,I am pissed off with being ld that I am at the extreme end of a spectrum here everyone is bisexual.I expect this shit from rendy sociologists,psychologists and doctors.Then hey continued by saying that all the work done by isexuals in the lesbian and gay movement has gone nnoticed; but where are these political bisexuals? don't see any 'Bisex uals support the miners' ampaigns,or any noticeable bisexual presence on olice Bill marches.Why don't they set up campaigns with some political relevance instead of the eactionary London Bisexual Group,the only nation- voice in the country.I can't help wondering tly what the conference workshop would have scussed if a handful of lesbian and gay activsts hadn't turned up. On the other hand perhaps d rather not know.

This article also appears in LGYM Newsletter No14
uncredited, as are most of their articles, but
Jeff Vernon tells LBG it's written by a GYM member called Angelo

THE·BI·MONTHLY ·PROGRESS·REPORT·

The Bi-Monthly has now been published for a year and perhaps it is timeto take stock of our progress to date. This has been steady, if slow, largely because of a lack of people in the LBG willing to play an active role in its production and dissemination on a regular basis. The number of individual subscribers has grown with each issue and now stands at 50. It is gratifying that our magazine is finding its way as far afield as Glamorgan, Dublin, Belfast, Devon and Fort William, as well as to Spain and the USA. The total sold to our members at Heaven fluctuates at around the 40 mark.

We are gradually trying to interest more alternative bookshops round the country and at the moment each issue finds its way to something like a dozen of them, on a sale or return basis, and with varying success. With the improved appearance we hope to achieve, its appeal should be widened. However, we still need volunteers both in London and elsewhere to approach these bookshops: the personal approach is much more likely to succeed than the postal one. If you feel you can help please contact me at BM/BI, London WC1N 3XX.

We must make more effort if we are going to reach bisexuals all over the country and also if the venture is ever going to look like breaking even financially.

Cris Claxton-Stevens

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE BIMONTHLY AND ENCOURAGING MORE PEOPLE TO WRITE FOR IT

1/ A series of short articles under a title like " my Bisexuality - my life " (where individuals can communicate what being bisexual means to them and how it works in their personal and working life).

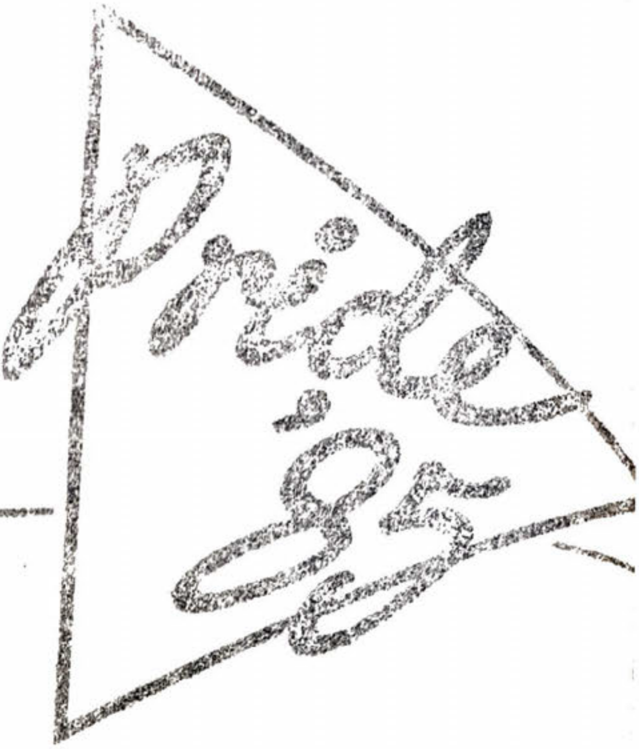
2/ A series of short articles " childhood memories of sexuality " (to let people share the agonies and the pleasures of early feelings and experiences).

3/ A set article printed every issue about the Group to tell people who are anxious about comming to heaven on Tuesdays and what or who to expect. Especially aimed at those new to the gay scene or those who feel shy (does'nt everybody feel shy anyway?).

4/ A series of articles " my impressions of the Group " or " what it means to me " (to give a more varied and personal humorous? insight into waht the Group is about).

5/ A list of contents or highlights on the cover to draw peoples' attention .

When I made these suggestions to the Group on 29/1/85 , I had a pretty positive response. Indeed it was obvious that others present had already thought along these lines.



PRIDE '85

Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival

We are now planning for the biggest Gay Pride celebration this country has ever seen. PRIDE '85 will include a festival of music, theatre, art and so on. In fact every aspect of Gay Life will be covered in the events taking place next June.

Pubs, clubs and other Gay businesses and organisations across the country are being encouraged to take part with their own PRIDE '85 events. The climax of the Festival will be a Parade through London to the PRIDE '85 Carnival in Jubilee Gardens where the celebrations will continue into the night.
The PRIDE '85 Organising Group meets fortnightly at Gays the Word bookshop. Contact us if you wish to be included in the programme of events or if you need help with your plans. We want to hear from anyone with ideas and the energy to make PRIDE '85 a Festival to remember.

What you can do:

- Organise a PRIDE '85 Night at your regular pub or disco.
- Make a banner for your organisation to take on the Parade.
- Come along to an organising meeting - we need volunteers.
- Send a donation to us at Gays the Word. (Cheques payable to L.A.G.P.W.C.)

PRIDE '85, c/o Gays the Word, 66 Marchmont St., London WC1. Telephone: Lisa: 01-809 7045, Eric or Phil: 01-737 2495.

GET AROUND TOWN ~ with Racie!!

So you're bisexual and it's not TUESDAY what do you do?

(Pictured) The Bi-Monthly collective hard at work)

Monday

Best value in town THE HIPPODROME £4.50 10.30pm onwards
Corner Charing Cross Rd/Leicester Square tube

Tuesday

Heaven, of course

Wednesday

Heds (At Crazy Larry's) Behind 533 Kings Road SW 16 £2.00 10.00pm onwards
Nice mixture of lesbians & gay men, interesting art around disco area

Thursday

Early evening The Bell , Kings X tube £1.00 8.30pm - midnight
then either The Asylum Heaven £3.00 guests only 10.00pm - v late
The Palace Camden Rd NW1 £3.00 10.00pm onwards "

Friday

Early evening The Bell , Kings X tube 8.30pm-midnight
Spats 37 Oxford St W1 10.00pm - late

Saturday

The Fallen Angel 65 Graham St , N1 Angel tube
Yours Or Mine/ El Sombrero 142/144 Kensington High St
£2.00 10.30pm - 2.30am
Very continental

Sunday

Stallions 5 - 6 Falconberg Court, Charing Cross Rd
WC 2 Opposite Centre-point
£1.50 5.00pm onwards
TEA DANCE

There does'nt seem to be much happening South of the river!

GAY LEGAL ADVICE.

TELEPHONE – 01–821–7672

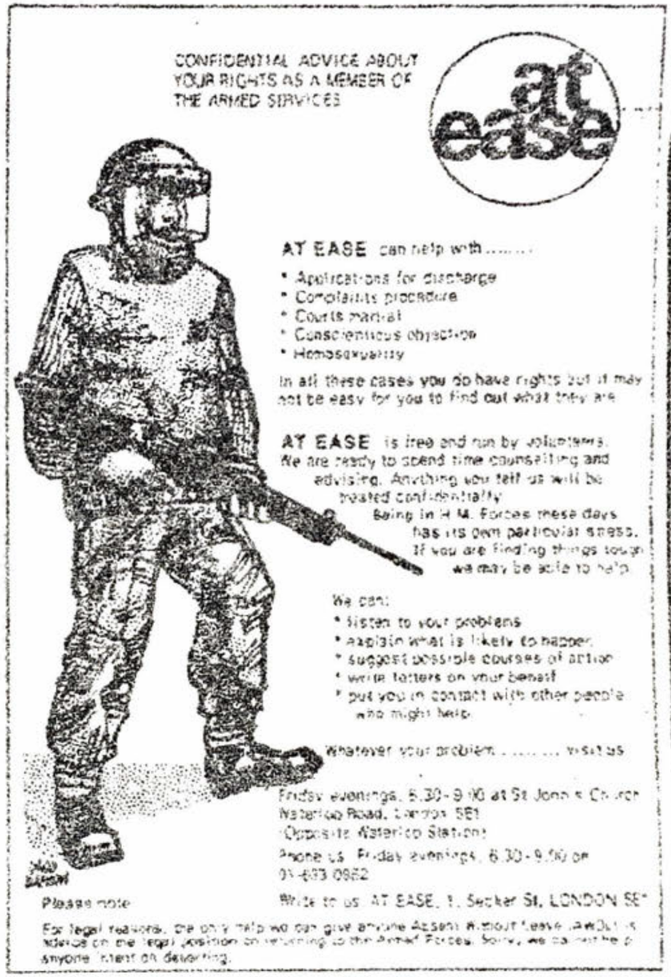
7 UNTIL 10 EVERY NIGHT.

OUR LAWYERS ARE ON DUTY EVERY NIGHT GIVING FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO GAY PEOPLE.

GLAD URGENTLY NEEDS FURTHER FUNDS TO ENSURE ITS SURVIVAL AND ALSO MORE LAWYERS TO MAN THE TELEPHONES.

IF YOU CAN HELP, TELEPHONE OR WRITE TO:-

BM GLAD, LONDON. WC1N 3XX.



CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ABOUT
YOUR RIGHTS AS A MEMBER OF
THE ARMED SERVICES

at ease

AT EASE can help with ....

- Applications for discharge
- Complaints procedure
- Courts martial
- Conscientious objection
- Homosexuality

In all these cases you do have rights but it may not be easy for you to find out what they are.

AT EASE is free and run by volunteers. We are ready to spend time counselling and advising. Anything you tell us will be treated confidentially.

Being in H.M. Forces these days has its own particular stress. If you are finding things tough we may be able to help.

We can:

- listen to your problems
- explain what is likely to happen
- suggest possible courses of action
- write letters on your behalf
- put you in contact with other people who might help.

Whatever your problem .... visit us

Friday evenings, 6.30-9.00 at St John's Church
Waterloo Road, London SE1
(Opposite Waterloo Station)

Phone us: Friday evenings, 6.30-9.00 on
01-633 0982

Write to us: AT EASE, 1, Secker St, LONDON SE1

Please note:

For legal reasons, the only help we can give anyone Absent Without Leave (AWOL) is advice on the legal position on returning to the Armed Forces. Sorry, we cannot help anyone intent on deserting.

FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS

In the last issue, there were at least 30 words hidden in a square. Hopefully you found more! Here are those we know about!

Variety	S/D to V/D
Patriarchy	I/N to V/D
Matriarchy	2/N to 2/D
Gay	3/F to 4/F
Lesbian	3/N to 3/G
Bisexual	W/N to 3/N
Straight	X/E to X/M
Revolution	T/K to 8/N
Porn Lies	7/J to T/J
Power	7/J to 7/N
Support	X/E to V/L
Unity	5/G to 6/C
Action	X/Q to 5/L
Gentle	T/L to I/Q
Cuddly	T/C to 6/C
Intimacy	R/G to R/O
Gender	T/L to S/N to S/Q
Identity	T/O to 7/O
Feminism	W/F to 8/J to 8/N
Comfort	5/H to W/H
	W/J to V/L
Stereotype	T/J to 6/D
	W/E to 8/H

PURGATORY PAGE......................

TAKE AN ANTIQUE COLLECTOR,A JAZZ DANCER,A CHILDRENS NURSE,A MÉNAGE-A-TROIS AND WHO DO YOU GET ????

hello john , got a new john , john ? why are there so many johns on a. Tuesday night ? and how many make a. pair?

WHICH VALLEY GIRL / J.A.P. HAS BEEN LEAVING MESSAGES ON A ROGUE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER'S ANSAPHONE ?

who has been having private massage sessions at arthur's....?

WHO WAS DAVID MEETING LAST WEEK ? WILL HE RING HIS BELL ?

will bernard and dudley ever get enough time off from T.V. (no, rachel, the other type) to come back to the BI group?

WHY DID JAMES GET UP BEFORE TEN AM? WAS IT THE WOMEN BUILDERS? AND WHERE WAS RICHARD WHILE THE FAMED SOMNAMBULIST WAS WAITING FOR HIM IN THE FALLEN ANGEL?

why is Alison on the switchboard shitlist ?

THESE AND OTHER IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED
THE NEXT ISSUE OF BI-MONTHLY

ALL GOSSIP / SCANDAL c/o " the devil" BI-MONTHLY COLLECTIVE

L.B.G · PROGRAMME

DISCUSSIONS START AT 8.00 pm AND FINISH AT 10.0 pm

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY	5th	Non-competitive games & ' Traveller's tales ' Stories about bisexual experiences abroad
SUNDAY	10th	Tea Dance at Stallions
TUESDAY	12th	Discussion on 'Image and sexuality ' Rachel
TUESDAY	19th	Discussion on ' Mens' part in womens' liberation. WOMEN ESPECIALLY WELCOME THIS WEEK
SUNDAY	24th	Tea Dance at Stallions
TUESDAY	26th	Pre-planning meeting. Ideas and topics for the Bigroup over the next 3 months
SUNDAY	31st	Planning meeting Location to announced

MARCH

TUESDAY	5th	Workshop for Bisexuals in long term relationships Chris
TUESDAY	12th	VIDEO & ' About town ' Chat about the Clubs and Discos where Bisexuals are welcome
FRIDAY	15th	COPY DATE for next Bimonthly issue so send in those articles folks!
TUESDAY	19th	Bisexuality and feminism WOMEN ESPECIALLY WELCOME THIS WEEK
SUNDAY	24th	Tea Dance at Stallions
TUESDAY	26th	Discussion ' Bisexuality before homosexuality' David

There will be a personal group every Tuesday aswell as the discussion topics shown above

ALL TUESDAY MEETINGS AT HEAVEN DISCO , UNDER THE ARCHES, VILLIERS ST

LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP LIBRARY - additions

Since the list of books was published in Issue 6, the following have been added and may be borrowed on payment of the stated deposit:

The Bisexual Option - F Klein (£4)

Barry and Alice - portrait of a bisexual marriage - (£9)

Androgyny - towards a new theory of sexuality (£4)

So you think you're attracted to the same sex? - (£2)

THE BI-MONTHLY

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THE BI MONTHLY ORDER FORM ⑦

I enclose £_____ cash ( ) cheque ( ) PO ( )
payable to the LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP or L.B.G.

NAME ______________________________

ADDRESS ______________________________

____

Single Issues		Subscription
BM 1 ( )	BM 7 ( )*	six issues
BM 2 ( )	BM 8 ( )*	
BM 3 ( )	BM 9 ( )*	starting with
BM 4 ( )	BM10 ( )*	Issue ______
BM 5 ( )	BM11 ( )*	
BM 6 ( )	BM12 ( )*	

Single issues @ 50p + large s.a.e.
Subscriptions @ £ 3.50

Multiple & overseas prices on application.
Personal ad.s taken free for the next few issues

SEND TO BM/BI, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

* to be published

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The Bisexual Conference
The Bisexual Manifest
Getting onto Television
Kerb Crawling Legislation
W.A.R.
Letters
Pride Week
L.B.G.
Around Town
Info
L.B.G. Programme